Leicester, March 21. 1839.

My dear Sir,

I have ~~been~~ had it in mind, for some time, to write to you & propose an exchange. As a meeting of Abolitionists was to be held here this week, I thought I would wait till that had taken place, & give you some account of it, at the same time.

I would propose to you an exchange on the Sunday following Convention (or Anniversary) Week; – i.e. the first Sunday in June. Perhaps this will be your Communion Sunday. If not (or if that be not a decided obstacle, provided it _is_ Com: day) it would gratify me much to have an exchange at that time. It is a good while beforehand to arrange an exch.; it is true. But we live so far apart, that it is necessary for us to select some time, when we shall not have to go the whole distance for the sole purpose of exchanging. We must try to hit (for you wouldn't _kill_) as many birds with one stone as we can. And if we agree on the day proposed, it ~~will~~ can be subject to a reversal, if any circumstances should occur, now unforseen, to make it necessary.

We had, on Sunday, Rev. H. C. Wright here, preaching Non-Resistance. He applied first to Mr. Nelson, who declined having him preach in his meeting-house, on Sunday, on the subject; and also said he should say ~~of~~ the ~~same~~ same of Temperance, Abolition, & Moral Reform, so called. This ~~ground~~ excuse of Mr. Nelson's, (So far at least as Temperance is concerned) was manufactured for the occasion. Within a few months, Crosby, and Parmenter (a blind man) have lectured in his Meetg.-house, on Sunday, on Temperance. - Mr. W. then came to me. He preached for me Sunday P. M., on the text, "If any man have not the spirit of Xt., &c.&c." and the people were very generally, & very much, pleased with him. - He preached, in our Church, again, in the evening, to a full audience, and expounded Non Resistance unto them more perfectly. - His views are not gainsaid, that I can learn, - but there is a too general skepticism as to the practicability of carrying them into action - and this notwithstanding the many facts to the contrary, adduced by him. He also held a third meeting, in our Town Hall, on Monday evg., to hear & answer objections. The usual, & most obvious ones, were those which were brought forward. - On Tuesday, a meeting of the Worcester South Anti Slavery Society was held here. Meſsrs. Chapman & Collins were here from the Maſs. Society, with the purpose (doubtleſs) of bringing to the notice of the meeting the recent unhappy collision between that & the American Society. - The subject was partially discuſsed. Mr. St. Clair was here (& consumed at least ½ of the whole time in talking, to little purpose), Rev. Mr. Colver, Rev. Mr. Martin of Haverhill (as was said), Rev. Mr. Allen of Shrewsbury, &c.&c. The 4, last named, opposed the discuſsion, & objected to any Resolution being paſsed which should expreſs any opinion in favour of either of the Societies. I have read one Statement on each side, & think the Amn. Soc. greatly in fault. I hope Maſsachusetts will stand by the "Maſs. Soc." - It was said that the whole subject would shortly come up before a Quarterly Meetg. of the Maſs. Society. As I suppose you will be present thereat, I will trouble you with a request to send me the result of the meeting, if it be published, and I will see that it is made up to the Cause.

I have not seen Mr. Stebbins of Brookfield, since I heard from you. Sarah & I should doubtless have gone up together, some day, if we had had any sleighing, or if we ~~he~~ could have known that there would be none. We have kept waiting for sleighing, till, now, it is too late for that, and the roads are not in good condition ~~otherwise~~ for wheels. – There has been a sale of Mr. S.'s little property, and I think it most probable that Mr. S. with her children will remove from B.

I was in Boston, a couple of weeks since, & went to see your Father. How calmly, & (at his age) remarkably, he bears up against his severe affliction. We rejoice that his old age is so comfortably & fully provided for, in all outward things, & for the prospect of [illegible] better comfort and support in Louisa G. We also rejoice that our excellent Aunt has set aside a handsome sum for your, & your family's, use, believing (as doubtless she did) that it would not have been easy to make a better disposition of it.

I am happy to say that my Wife and children are very well. Sarah sends her love to you all, in which I heartily join. – I want very much to see Cousin Lucretia and your children, and hope that we shall be able, at length, to arrange an exchange. –

Your friends here are generally well. – Our Society, 2 mos. ago, received a heavy blow in the departure from town of Mr. Waldo Flint ([illegible] its principal originator & supporter) & Mr. Joshua Clapp. The latter, it is said, has suffered heavy losses of property.

Mr. John Clapp & family are about returning here, and are to take Mr. Joshua C.'s house. You know Mrs. John C. – a sister of the Flints. She will be a host, in herself, ~~to~~ in our cause.

I am, my dear Sir, most affectionately, Yr. Cousin & friend

Saml. May.

Leicester Mass
March 22d.

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Rev. Saml. J. May.
South Scituate.
(Mass.)

Saml. May Jr.
Mar. 22. 1835

Ms.A.6.1.12